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VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

OPEN TO ALL PARTIES, BUT INFLUENCED BY NONE.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY BY JOHN PINKNEY.

To the AMERICAN SOLDIERY.

WORTHY FELLOW SOLDIERS,

WHEN I take a view of the extenſive country we inhabit, and conſider the ſurpriſing rapidity with which it has emerged from a ſtate of ſavage barbarity, in which it was a century and an half paſt involved; when I traverſe the pleaſant fields, and take a ſurvey of the elegant buildings and beautiful landſcapes riſing to my view, where not long ſince the impenetrable foreſts and inhoſpitable wilds, the haunts of prowling wolves, forbad the approach of the affrighted traveller; when I view theſe once dreary waſtes bloſſoming as the roſe, and teeming with an ample ſupply of all the conveniencies of life; in fine, when I attend to the almoſt incredible rapidity of population in the American colonies, I am ſtruck with aſtoniſhment at the bountiful rewards of the induſtry of our worthy forefathers, and cannot forbear anticipating the future grandeur of this weſtern world.

The number of inhabitants, according to the moſt accurate eſtimates that have been made, doubles in every period of twenty five years. The continental congreſs have eſtimated the number of inhabitants in eleven colonies at three million, equal to about three fifths of thoſe in the whole iſland of Great Britain. In the year 1800, according to the foregoing calculation, it will amount to ſix million. Let us ſtretch our ideas to the year 2000, and our computation furniſhes us with the number of one thouſand five hundred and thirty ſix millions, a computation which almoſt exceeds human conception; but it is not greater than what may rationally be expected, if they continue to encreaſe in the proportion they have hitherto done. It may peahaps be objected, that in indulging the fallies of too ſanguine an imagination, I have neglected to conſider that as the rapid encreaſe of inhabitants in the American colonies has proceeded chiefly from that ſpirit of emigration which in conſequence of the cheapneſs of lands, and healthineſs of the climate, has actuated the Europeans of almoſt all nations to purchaſe freeholds for their families, and as thoſe unappropriated lands are daily becoming leſs extenſive, this ſource of population muſt in a ſhort time fail us. I know it is an axiom in politics, that beyond a determinate degree of population in any country the proportion of the encreaſe of numbers diminiſhes. But to anſwer theſe objections, I need only point to thoſe almoſt unbounded deſarts which extend from our moſt weſtern ſettlements to the pacific ocean, regions hitherto unexplored by the moſt indefatigable reſearches. To this pleaſing portrait, if we add the proportionable improvements in agriculture, the military, and polite arts and ſciences, together with that encreaſe of wealth and importance which will reſult from an unconfined trade, they may perhaps render this once DESPICABLE COUNTRY the moſt POWERFUL and AUGUST EMPIRE which the annals of hiſtory can boaſt. Let us look around us then, my fellow ſoldiers; let us contemplate this pleaſing figure; let us make a ſolemn pauſe, and then aſk ourſelves whether we are willing to relinquiſh not only our preſent enjoyments, but all hopes of ſecuring happineſs and freedom for our children, and thereby ſpurn thoſe privileges which the God of nature has conferred upon us in ſuch beneficient profuſion; let us aſk ourſelves whether we will ſee our wives, with every thing that is dear to us, ſubjected to the mercileſs rage of uncontrouled deſpotiſm; or are any of us at a loſs concerning our duty in this day of general diſtreſs? Let us repair to the graves of our ſleeping forefathers; let us conſult their venerable manes upon this momentous occaſion. Would they not, if it were poſſible, re-animate their intombed duſt, or burſt forth from their gloomy caverns, and point to thoſe wounds they received in ſecuring the country which gave us birth from the inhuman depredations of their faithleſs enemies? Would they not recount the numerous perils to which they were expoſed in croſſing a wide ocean, the hardſhips, and almoſt inſurmountable difficulties, they encountered in every ſtorm? Would they not, with a degree of noble indignation, upbraid us with ingratitude to them, and want of ſpirit and manly reſolution, in cruelly heſitating one moment to defend, and ſecure to our poſterity, what coſt them ſo much blood and treaſure? Let us cloath our faces with an ingenuous bluſh for our criminal indifference; let us drop a grateful tear in tribute to the memory of men, the very relation of whoſe diſintereſted exertions, and unparallelled ſufferings, ſhould be ſufficient to inſpire us with an heroic ardour in the glorious enterprize of tranſmitting to our children thoſe ſacred rights to which we ourſelves were born; let us fly to the only means left for our defence, and ſwear to thoſe venerable ſhades that their ſons will never diſgrace their unſullied names with the execrable epithet of *ſlavery*.

But if theſe conſiderations are not ſufficient to inſpire us with fortitude and reſolution, there are ſtill higher motives, which cannot fail to unite us in this noble ſtruggle. We are engaged, my fellow ſoldiers, in the cauſe of virtue, of liberty, of God: For God's ſake, then let us play the man for God's ſake, let us neglect no requiſite precautions to' fruſtrate the cruel attempts of our remorſeleſs foes; for God's ſake, let us encourage regularity and good order in the army, by paying implicit obedience to the command of our officers; let us conſider the importance of diſcipline, and the terror which the exacteſt uniformity in performing the military manœuvres generally ſtrikes upon the moſt experienced army. What rendered the Spartan army the glory of the Grecian empire, and cauſed even Xerxes the great to tremble, but that hardy mode of diſcipline to which they were from their infancy, by the law of Lycurgus, habituated? What but an unreſerved confidence of the Roman ſoldiers in the abilities of their commanders enabled them to conquer an illuſtrious Hannibal? What but an unremitted attention to the art of war procured them the empire of the world, by wreſting it from the hands of the GRECIAN

WARRIORS? What but a neglect of this rendered them an eaſy prey to their ſavage neighbours? In fine, theſe are the neceſſary artifices, by which the glory of the Britiſh arms has extended to the moſt diſtant ſhores. Let AMERICANS catch that beautiful regularity, and hardy form of diſcipline, which Britons, through debauchery and effeminacy, are loſing; let us not conſider theſe matters as of little importance; they are abſolutely neceſſary in a ſtanding army, of the greateſt importance in a militia. We may hope then that the latter will, by the wiſdom of our ſenators, be immediately put under proper regulations, ſince their aſſiſtance may be rendered indiſpenſably neceſſary in an emergency; let us be conſtant in attending our duty, and in guarding our lines, that we may be ready at all times to repel our enemy. Though they may not perhaps venture without the reach of their cannon, yet they will doubtleſs endeavour to plunder our paſtures, to ſatisfy their hunger, as in the week paſt, and we cannot be too vigilant in our endeavours to fruſtrate them; let us reſolve to follow our officers to an honourable death or a glorious victory; at worſt, it is only dying a few days ſooner than we otherwiſe ſhould; it is only loſing a few days of a devoted life. If we live to conquer, we gain our freedom, and reap the fruits of it.

Our cruel enemies have forced us to paſs the rubicon; we have begun the noble work, and there is no retreating; the king of Britain has proclaimed us rebels. The ſword is drawn, the ſcabbard muſt be thrown away; there is no medium between a glorious defence and the moſt abject ſlavery. If we fail in our endeavours to repel the aſſaults of tyranny, we are to expect no mercy; the brave, but miſerable Corſicans, may ſerve for an example of the unreſtrained ravages of enraged deſpotiſm. On the other hand, the ſtates of Holland ſupply an inſtance of happineſs and glory, procured by a noble ſtand againſt abſolute power. We would not wiſh for the abſolute independence of the latter, would our inexorable oppreſſors but liſten to our juſt complaints; but, at all events, we are determined not to ſubmit to a ſyſtem of tyranny little inferior to that ſlaviſh thraldom in which the ſubjects of the Turkiſh ſultan are held. Our enemies have ridiculed our courage and military ſkill; but, by dear-bought experience, they have been convinced of their error; they are obliged to ſubmit to the mortification of being confined within a few acres of land, miſerably fed upon a beggarly pittance of half ſtarved animal food. We are driving them from our fortreſſes in the weſt; our privateers are daily ſeizing valuable cargoes of proviſions, and other articles upon the ſeas, where we leaſt expected ſucceſs. In fine, we are ſupplying ourſelves with every thing neceſſary to ſupport the war. New ſchemes of œconomy are inventing, and I doubt not but we ſhall find our calamities, in a ſhort time, conſiderably alleviated, if not by foreign trade, yet by induſtry and frugality, which are making ſuch rapid progreſs throughout the continent. Approving Heaven has hitherto ſmiled upon almoſt every enterprize. Though from a natural affection to our mother country, and a reluctance to the effuſion of human blood, we quietly ſuffered the enemy to take poſſeſſion of, and fortify the town of Boſton, yet they can boaſt no advantages which they have acquired by their arms, except one dear-bought ſpot, which, by ſuperiority of numbers, they with difficulty obtained. A few more noble exertions, my brave fellow ſoldiers, a few more ſpirited ſtruggles, and we ſecure our liberties; a few more ſucceſsful battles, and we are a free and happy people. We will then retire to our families, and, whilſt we are regaling ourſelves with ſocial feſtivity, entertain our liſtening children with the fatigues and dangers to which they owe their freedom, and ſhew the ſcars of the honourable wounds we received in the field of battle. Happy the man who can boaſt that he was one of thoſe heroes that put the finiſhing ſtroke to this arduous work; in ſerenity may he paſs his future days, and, when ſatisfied with life, and expiring under the ſmiles of an approving conſcience, bequeath the ineſtimable patrimony to his grateful children.

A SOLDIER.

Mr. PINKNEY,

FROM officers, who have arrived in town from colonel Woodford's camp ſince the battle of the Great Bridge, I have, I think, collected a more particular account of that action than any which has yet been communicated to the public. You will therefore oblige me by publiſhing it, and perhaps afford, at the ſame time, no diſagreeable entertainment to our countrymen. As the ſcene of action is but little known to the generality of people, it may be neceſſary to give ſome deſcription of it, that the relation may be more clear and ſatisfactory. The Great Bridge is built over what is called the Southern Branch of Elizabeth river, twelve miles above Norfolk. The land on each ſide is marſhy to a conſiderable diſtance from the river, except at the two extremities of the bridge, where are two pieces of firm land, which may not improperly be called iſlands, being ſurrounded entirely by water and marſh, and joined to the main land by cauſeways. On the little piece of firm ground on the farther, or Norfolk ſide, lord Dunmore had erected his fort, in ſuch a manner that his cannon commanded the cauſeway on his own ſide, and the bridge between him and us, with the marſhes around him. The iſland on this ſide of the river contained ſix or ſeven houſes, ſome of which were burnt down (the neareſt to the bridge) by the enemy, after the arrival of our troops; in the others, adjoining the cauſeway on each ſide, were ſtationed a guard every night by colonel Woodford, but withdrawn before day, that they might not be expoſed to the fire of the enemy's fort in re-croſſing the cauſeway to our camp, this cauſeway being alſo commanded by their cannon. The cauſeway on our ſide was in length about one hundred and ſixty yards, and on the hither extremity our breaſt-work was thrown up. From the breaſt-work ran a ſtreet, gradually aſcending, about the length of four hundred yards, to a church, where our main body were encamped. The great trade to Norfolk in ſhingles, tar, pitch, and turpentine, from the country back of this, had occaſioned ſo many houſes to be built here, whence theſe articles were conveyed to Norfolk by water. But this by the bye. Such is the nature of the place as deſcribed to me, and ſuch were our ſituation, and that of the enemy. On Saturday the 9th inſtant, after reveille beating, two or three great guns, and ſome muſquetry, were diſcharged from the enemy's fort, which, as it was not an unuſual thing, was but little regarded by colonel Woodford. However, ſoon afterwards he heard a call to the ſoldiers to ſtand to their arms; upon which, with all expedition, he made the proper diſpoſitions to receive the enemy. In the mean time the enemy had croſſed the bridge, fired the remaining houſes upon the iſland, and ſome large piles of ſhingles, and attacked our guard in the breaſt-work. Our men returned the fire, and threw them into ſome confuſion, but they were inſtantly rallied by captain Fordyce, and advanced along the cauſeway with great reſolution, keeping up a conſtant and heavy fire as they approached. Two field pieces, which had been brought acroſs the bridge; and planted on the edge of the iſland, facing the left of our breaſt-work, played briſkly at

the ſame time upon us. Lieutenant Travis, who commanded in the breaſt-work, ordered his men to reſerve their fire till the enemy came within the diſtance of fifty yards, and then they gave it to them with terrible execution. The brave Fordyce exerted himſelf to keep up their ſpirits, reminded them of their ancient glory, and waving his hat over his head, encouragingly told them *the day was their own.* Thus preſſing forward, he fell within fifteen ſteps of the breaſt-work. His wounds were many, and his death would have been that of an hero, had he met it in a better cauſe. The progreſs of the enemy was now at an end; they retreated over the cauſeway with precipitation, and were dreadfully galled in their rear. Hitherto, on our ſide only, the guard, conſiſting of twenty five, and ſome others, upon the whole, amounting to not more than ninety, had been engaged. Only the regulars of the 14th regiment, in number one hundred and twenty, had advanced upon the cauſeway; and about two hundred and thirty tories and negroes had, after croſſing the bridge, continued upon the iſland. The regulars, after retreating along the cauſeway, were again rallied by captain Leſlie, and the two field pieces continued to play upon our men. It was at this time that colonel Woodford was advancing down the ſtreet to the breaſt-work with the main body, and againſt him was now directed the whole fire of the enemy. Never were cannon better ſerved; but yet in the face of them and the muſquetry, which kept up a continual blaze, our men marched on with the utmoſt intrepidity. Colonel Stevens, of the Culpeper battalion, was ſent round to the left to flank the enemy, which was done with ſuch activity and ſpirit that a rout immediately enſued. The enemy fled into their fort, leaving behind them the two field pieces, which, however, they took care to ſpike up with nails. Many were killed and wounded in the flight, but colonel Woodford very prudently reſtrained his troops from urging their purſuit too far. From the beginning of the attack till the repulſe from the breaſt work might be about fourteen or fifteen minutes, till the total defeat upwards of half an hour. It is ſaid that ſome of the enemy preferred death to captivity, from a fear of being ſcalped, which lord Dunmore inhumanly told them would be their fate ſhould they be taken alive. Thirty one, killed and wounded, fell into our hands, and the number borne off was much greater. Through the whole of the engagement every officer and ſoldier behaved with the greateſt courage and calmneſs. The conduct of our centinels I cannot paſs over in ſilence. Before they quitted their ſtations they fired at leaſt three rounds as the enemy were croſſing the bridge, and one of them, who was poſted behind ſome ſhingles, kept his ground till he had fired eight times; and after receiving a whole platoon, made his eſcape over the cauſeway into our breaſt-work. The ſcene was cloſed with as much humanity as it had been conducted with bravery. The work of death being over, every one's attention was directed to the ſuccour of the unhappy ſufferers, and it is an undoubted fact that captain Leſlie was ſo affected with the tenderneſs of our troops towards thoſe who were yet capable of aſſiſtance, that he gave ſigns from the fort of his thankfulneſs for it. What is not to be parallelled in hiſtory, and will ſcarcely appear credible, except to ſuch as acknowledge a providence over human affairs, this victory was gained at the expence of no more than a ſlight wound in a ſoldier's hand; and one circumſtance, which renders it ſtill more amazing is, that the field pieces raked the whole length of the ſtreet, and abſolutely threw double-headed ſhot as far as the church, and afterwards, as our troops approached, cannonaded them heavily with grapeſhot.

MR. PINKNEY,

THE gentlemen of North Carolina have ſet a noble example to our countrymen, and to all Americans, how to act when a neighbouring colony is attacked. One hundred and fifty gentlemen, volunteers, marched into Virginia on hearing of lord Dunmore's inſolence and outrages, joined colonel Woodford, have co operated with him ever ſince, and ſuch of them as were quartered near the breaſt-work repaired to it, and fought with great bravery. A few days after the engagement, colonel Howe joined colonel Woodford with about 350 men of his regiment, which being on the continental eſtabliſhment, takes place of our provincial forces, and therefore the command devolved on colonel Howe. There is the greateſt harmony between the commanding officers. Colonel Howe is a gentleman of experience and abilities; he ſerved ſeveral campaigns laſt war as captain of an independent company from North Carolina, in conjunction with the Virginia regiments; he had a colonel's commiſſion under governor Tryon, commanded fort Johnſton, and was very active and ſerviceable to Tryon in ſuppreſſing the inſurrection, ſhewing himſelf a firm ſupporter of government whilſt proceeding on conſtitutional principles, and now nobly oppoſing it, when it attempts to trample on the deareſt rights and privileges of his countrymen. I am your humble ſervant,

AN AMERICAN.

WILLIAMSBURG.

Extract of a letter from colonel Howe *to the honourable the preſident of the convention.*

SIR, NORFOLK, *December* 15, 1775.

THE courſe of ſervice neceſſarily inducing an enquiry between colonel Woodford and myſelf, reſpecting our commiſſions, we found that mine, from the nature of it, had the precedence of his. He conducted himſelf upon this occaſion in that manner which his knowledge of diſcipline could not but dictate, and with that gentility which never forſakes him. It is with diffidence, ſir, that I undertake this charge, and I muſt add, however honourable, with reluctance, as I ſupercede a gentleman I ſo much eſteem, whoſe abilities I know to be equal to the duties of the ſtation, and who hath ſo amply filled the meaſure of his duty. If real attachment to the noble cauſe in which I am engaged, and the ſtricteſt attention to my duty, can in any manner compenſate for my want of abilities, the colony of Virginia may rely upon my utmoſt exertion to ſerve them, in which, I flatter myſelf, I ſhall not be wholly unſucceſsful, as I am promiſed the aſſiſtance of my friend colonel Woodford, whoſe advice I ſhall upon every occaſion aſk, and whoſe aid I am certain will never be denied me. I ſhall be happy to be honoured with your inſtructions upon every occaſion, and an exact compliance with your commands ſhall be conſidered as an indiſpenſable obligation. I have the honour to be, with the greateſt reſpect, ſir, your obedient ſervant,

ROBERT HOWE.

Extract of a letter from colonel Woodford *to the honourable the preſident of the convention.*

SIR, NORFOLK, *December* 15, 1775.

I WROTE you laſt night; ſince then nothing material has happened; we ſtill remain in the ſame ſituation. This morning a midſhipman, with a flag of truce, arrived from the Otter. That and our anſwer you have encloſed. All the principal tories, with their families and effects, have re

tired on board the ships of war and other veſſels in the harbour of which there is a very large fleet. What they intend I know not, and I am much at a loſs to inform your honourable body what ſteps we ſhall take, farther than to keep poſſeſſion of this part of the town, and afford what protection we can to the inhabitants that claim it. We are much at a loſs for your farther orders, which we hoped to receive before this time, and are not without our fears that ſome accident muſt have happened to your expreſs. I received a letter this morning from Mr. Cary Mitchell: Our anſwer is encloſed, with his letter. I have the worſt opinion of the people here, and have no doubt but every thing relating to us is laid before his lordſhip. If it is your intention that a part only of the preſent force ſhould remain at this place, I would ſubmit it to your conſideration, whether the 2d regiment, or any part of it you may think proper to withdraw, may not, after their hardy duty, be drawn off. I wrote the convention laſt night that I had reſigned the command to colonel Howe, as that gentleman's military abilities, and great experience, will be full equal to every taſk. I would aſk the convention's leave of abſence to ſee my family, and attend to my private affairs, for ſo long time as ſhall be agreeable to them. I do not mean this ſo long as there is a proſpect of any actual ſervice, either offenſive or defenſive. You have, encloſed, a return of the ſtrength of the troops at this place, and for farther particulars muſt refer you to ſeveral members of your reſpectable body, who are the bearers of this. I am, with the greateſt reſpect, ſir, your moſt obedient ſervant,

WILLIAM WOODFORD.

To the OFFICER *commanding at* Norfolk.

CAPTAIN Squire's compliments to the commanding officer, informs him that ſeveral muſquet balls were laſt night fired at the king's ſhip from ſome people at Norfolk. Captain Squire did not return the fire, from a ſuppoſition it was done out of wantonneſs. Captain Squire does not mean to fire on the town of Norfolk unleſs firſt fired at; muſt beg to know if any hoſtile intention was meant to his majeſty's ſhip, and people under his command.

Otter *ſloop*, *off* Norfolk, *December* 15, 1775.

ANSWER TO THE ABOVE.

COLONEL Howe's and colonel Woodford's compliments to captain Squire, and aſſure him they gave no orders to fire upon the Otter, and conceive the muſquet balls mentioned in captain Squire's meſſage to have come from our guard, who fired by miſtake upon one of our own parties.

ROBERT HOWE,
WILLIAM WOODFORD.

A MORNING RETURN *of the* FORCES *now under the command of colonel* Howe.

VIRGINIA 2d regiment, 350. Virginia minute battalion, 165. A detachment of the 1ſt Virginia regiment, 172. North Carolina 2d regiment, 438. North Carolina volunteers, 150. Total ſtrength of companies, 1275.

Extract of a letter from colonel Scott *to captain* Southall, *dated* Norfolk, December 17.

DEAR SIR,

"I juſt have time to inform you that we have at laſt got poſſeſſion of the moſt horrid place I ever beheld; I mean Norfolk. Almoſt all the inhabitants fled on board the ſhips. Flags are continually paſſing, aſking water, proviſion, or to exchange priſoners. Duty is harder than I ever ſaw before. our guards have not been relieved for 48 hours. The men of war fell down laſt evening about a mile, and left a brig with 5000 buſhels of ſalt behind, which our guard took, and brought to the wharf, but have not got one buſhel on ſhore yet. We have got on board the veſſel Mr. Cary Mitchell."

HANOVER *county*, December 20, 1775.

THE ſubſcribers have got their fulling mill at work, where the public ſhall be faithfully and expeditiouſly ſerved. As a wiſh to be of ſervice to our country had ſome weight with us in ſetting up our works, we think it our duty to inform our countrymen that we have tried ſome experiments, which we conceive will prove of great ſervice, eſpecially to thoſe who have few ſheep, and but little wool. A cotton chain filled in with a thread of cotton and a thread of wool, ſlack twiſted together, thickens very well in the mill, and we believe will weave exceeding well. It will make very good winter wear for ſervants and children. A cotton chain filled in with mixed wool of two pounds and an half of white, to one pound of black, will make very good and handſome mixed cloth; fit for any body. The filling ſhould be even ſpun, and ſlack twiſted. Such cloth ſhould be thin ſlayed, and 5 quarters wide, as it ſhrinks in width only.

Every one who would wiſh to make good cloth, and have it look well, muſt be careful to have their wool well mixed, and ſpun with as even a twiſt as may be. The chain ſhould be well twiſted, the filling coarſer, of the fineſt wool, and ſlack twiſt. The wool ſhould be ſorted as it comes off the ſheep. The belly and neck is the fineſt, the ſides next, and the ſhoulders and thighs the coarſeſt. We are prepared for weaving cloth 5 quarters wide, but are at a loſs, at preſent, for weavers. If any ſuch, who underſtands the woollen buſineſs, will apply, they will meet with good encouragement.

We are the publics obedient humble ſervants,

ELISHA and ROBERT WHITE.

To be SOLD *by the ſubſcriber, at Mr.* Gabriel Maupin's,

A QUANTITY of exceeding fine INDIGO, by wholeſale and retail, at a lower price than any ever ſold in this colony. JOHN LAWSON.

*** I ſhall leave this city in a few days.

STRAYED or ſtolen from the ſubſcriber, ſome time about the middle of laſt month, a dark gray horſe, 4 or 5 years old, and about 4 feet 7 or 8 inches high; he has a dent on the right ſide of his neck, which is large enough to lay an egg into, and another on the tip of one of his buttocks; has a hanging mane and ſwitch tail, and ſome of the under part of his foretop is cut off. Whoever brings the ſaid horſe to me, near Peterſburg, ſhall be handſomely rewarded, and if ſtolen, five pounds on conviction of the thief. 4* JOHN BURTON.

FALMOUTH, *December* 4, 1775.

THE ſubſcriber intends to leave the colony early in next ſpring. As there are many accounts yet unſettled on the ſtore books, which were kept by him at this place, on account of meſſieurs William Cunninghame and company, merchants in Glaſgow, and which he gave up to Mr. Walter Colquhoun on the firſt of September, 1774, he deſires all perſons in that manner indebted to apply as ſoon as they can, and have their balances aſcertained, by bond or otherwiſe, as may be required. This will prevent any diſpute that might ariſe with Mr. Colquhoun in the collection, and is a piece of juſtice due by the debtors for the credit allowed to them. 3 JAMES ROBISON.